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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Identical letters dated 7 March 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

The Israeli military campaign being carried out against the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, continues to widen in both scope and scale. Late yesterday, Thursday, 6 March, following intense raids, the Israeli occupying forces reoccupied areas under full Palestinian control around the towns of Beit Hanoun, Beit Lahiya and the Jabaliya refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. Nearly 100 tanks and armoured vehicles seized positions in the area, including taking over a Palestinian police base and an elementary school, blocked roads and dug trenches, and took up several sniper positions on building rooftops and around fields. Israeli bulldozers also razed and destroyed orchard trees and farmland in the area. This reoccupation of Palestinian territory by the Israeli occupying forces is indicative of the intentions of Israel, the occupying Power, to continue to pursue and escalate its military campaign in these densely populated civilian areas, certain to bring only more devastation and suffering to the Palestinian people.

In this regard, the death toll of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory continues to tragically rise. In the three days since our last letter to you (A/ES-10/220-S/2003/239), 21 Palestinian men, women and children have been killed in raids and assaults carried out by the Israeli occupying forces and dozens of Palestinians have been wounded.

As in recent days and weeks, Israel, the occupying Power, has continued to intensely target specific Palestinian civilian areas in the Gaza Strip. In the pre-dawn hours of yesterday, the Israeli occupying forces invaded the Jabaliya refugee camp, using both tanks and helicopter gunships. At least eight Palestinians were killed by Israeli tank fire directed at a group of Palestinians trying to salvage furniture from a woodwork shop that was ablaze and more than 100 people were wounded in the

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attack. Many of the killed and wounded were children. Also yesterday in Gaza, the occupying forces launched several helicopter missile attacks in Jabaliya, killing a 61-year-old Palestinian man, Mohammed Shihdeh Al-Biyari, and wounding more than 20 Palestinians, and shot dead 2 other Palestinian men, one of them a policeman. The carnage continued today with 3 Palestinians killed and more than another 15 wounded by the occupying forces in the area.

The killings committed yesterday by the Israeli occupying forces were not, however, confined to the Gaza Strip. Indeed, the occupying forces continued to carry out raids and assaults and other illegal practices and measures throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In this regard, yesterday, a 55-year-old Palestinian woman, Khairiyeh Mahmoud Alawneh, a mother of eight children, was killed by the occupying forces as she herded her sheep in a field near the city of Jenin. Also, among those killed were a 15-year-old Palestinian boy, killed during raids by the occupying forces in the Old City of Nablus, and a Palestinian man shot dead by Israeli soldiers in Bethlehem.

All of these brutal killings, in addition to the thousands of other killings of Palestinians by the Israeli occupying forces since September 2000, have been committed before the eyes of the world with no consequences to the occupying Power. It is this culture of impunity that has allowed Israel to continue relentlessly committing serious violations and grave breaches of international law and international humanitarian law, in particular the fourth Geneva Convention, in all of its policies and practices towards the Palestinian civilian population under its occupation.

This letter is in follow-up to our previous 160 letters to you regarding the ongoing crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 4 March 2003 (A/ES-10/220-S/2003/239), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, it is my regret to inform you that, since our last letter to you, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 21 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,224 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Somaia **Bargnouti**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the identical letters dated 7 March 2003 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Observer Mission of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem*

(Thursday, 6 March, to Friday, 7 March 2003)

Thursday, 6 March 2003

1. Mohammed Jamal Mohsen (14 years old)
2. Thaer Jabr Rihan (13 years old)
3. Ihab Ahmed Nabhan (14 years old)
4. Mohammed Manar Abu Wardah (16 years old)
5. Hamdi Othman Obeid (18 years old)
6. Nael Mohammed Abu Seedo
7. Ibrahim Jamal Al-Madhoon
8. Abdelkarim Ziyadeh
9. Naji Ismail Abu Jleeleh
10. Mohsen Awad Abu Odeh
11. Mohammed Shihdeh Al-Biyari
12. Hamzen Jabril Qarmour (17 years old)
13. Tarik Maher Al-Najjar (14 years old)
14. Abdullah Mahmoud Mikdad
15. Osama Mohammed Al-Asas
16. Mansi Abedrabbo Al-Mabhooh
17. Khairiyeh Mahmoud Alawneh

Friday, 7 March 2003

1. Baker Saeed Hawash (15 years old)
2. Imad Amin Finoneh
3. Ala'a Karam
4. Yussef Al-Manasreh

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* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,224.